

ANNUAL DIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT (YEAR 2004)

Council Members for year 2004:

Anna Lee Sabella – Chairperson (through 9/30/04)

Elizabeth Ney - Vice Chairperson (Acting Chair 10/1 – 12/31)

Richard Sloane - Secretary

Samuel Arbes, Cliff Baldwin, Terry Blankenship-Paris (Alternate), Marguaree Branyon (OEE0, 1st half of 2004, non-voting), Sharon Bryant, Marilyn Diaz, Jack Field, Veronica Godfrey (BIG, non-voting), Ronald Herbert (NIH Catalyst), Ginny Ivanoff (OEE0, 2nd half of 2004, non-voting), Ethel Jackson, Bill Jirles (AFGE, non-voting), Paul Johnson, Harriet Kinyamu, Charle League, Jackie Locklear, Alicia Moore, Ted Outwater, Lisa Rogers, Gerard Roman (OEE0, non-voting), Molly Vallant, and Linda Yu.

January:

The first meeting of the year was held on January 5, 2004. The Diversity Council mission statement was read and information was given on the purpose of the Council. This information is also available on the WEB at

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/divcouncil/>.

New officers were elected. Outgoing members were thanked for their service.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program was held on Jan, 13th with Mr. Sterling Freeman, Ex. Direc. Of Wildacres Leadership Initiative, and Assoc. Minister at Greater St. Paul Missionary Church in Durham. His presentation was followed by a Q/A period, and a reception.

A Black History month presentation took place 1/29/04 at EPA from 10 – 12. Michael Page from the Durham Public school board, was the speaker.

Male health information on prostate cancer was provided through our Health office. PSA testing and rectal exam were available 2/11/04 from 10 – 12:00. All males, but especially black men (highest risk group) were encouraged to be tested.

A gastric by-pass surgery panel discussion took place 1/29 at 2:00pm. Pros and cons/questions and answers were shared by folks who have had the surgery.

February:

At the February 11th meeting, January's events were reviewed and updates by the subcommittees were shared.

March:

The *Women's History Month* (Spirit Lecture) program was held on

April:

The *Clerical/Administrative/Secretarial/Technical* program was held on May 6th, featuring Ms. Gordon Flager, NIEHS's career counselor, who administered the Myers Briggs exam. The turnout was high with roughly 50 people; 96% of the reviews were positive, making the event a clear winner!

May:

The *Asian Pacific Islander* event will be held on 20 May 2004. Dr. Steven Levine, Interim Director of the Carolina Asia Center, UNC-Chapel Hill will give an informative and engaging lecture. A reception followed with food from the Udiipi Café. Polynesian dance demonstrations also took place.

June:

9 folks attended the presentation telecast from NIH 6/23/04, of the NIH's Salutaris video featuring Mel White as a Gay Pride Observance. D. Council attendees Sharon Bryant and Bill Jirles found the presentation outstanding and provided a full appreciation of nonviolence as it relates to bridging the intolerance of the heterosexual and homosexual communities.

July: Committee planning meetings.

August: Committee planning meetings.

September: Committee planning meetings.

October:

Hispanic Heritage Month provided a full slate of activities, displays, music, dance, food, and film throughout the month. Highlighted countries included Argentina, Mexico, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, with one week focused on each of these countries.

Disability Awareness activities were held October 13 and included a moving performance by the M&M singers (mentally challenged kids). This was preceeded by a worthwhile presentation by a Special Olympics athlete and her coach. Handouts and brochures were available. Also, the "CAP" program (Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program), designed to assist disabled folks, was highlighted.

November:

The *Native American Heritage* program was held on November 10th. Dr. Eloy

Rodriguez's talk was well attended, with a particularly strong showing by the scientific staff, for his talk was on medicinal compounds with a rich presentation of data and information. His presentation was viewed as "more technical" in nature compared to most Diversity hosted presentations.

December: *International Day* activities (Dec 14th) received praise from OEEO's Ginny Ivanoff as a great success and cited the work of Ted and Terry in compiling, organizing, and arranging publication of the "International Day" cookbook, loaded with a broad range of recipes from around the world. A banner was hung in the lobby and promotional signs and posters were distributed. 15 countries were represented and a lively afternoon of music was supplied through Karaoke singing by NIEHS staff, plus seasonal music performances by the NIEHS band.